

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 3-9, 14-17 and 20 were allowed; claims 10-12 were withdrawn from consideration; and claims 1, 2 and 13 were rejected. Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 3-9, 14-17 and 20. By this Reply and Amendment, claims 1, 2 and 13 have been canceled without prejudice, and claims 3-9, 14-17 and 20 remain pending in the present application.

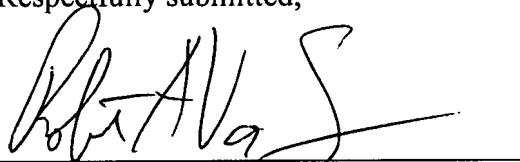
In the Office Action, claim 2 was rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by the Lussier et al. reference, US Patent No.: 5,648,635. This rejection is respectfully traversed based on at least the reasons set forth in the previous Reply and Amendment dated December 19, 2006. However, the rejection is moot in light of the cancellation of claim 2 without prejudice.

In the Office Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over the Kneisl et al. reference, US Publication No.: 2002/0189482, in view of the Lussier et al. reference. This rejection is respectfully traversed based on at least the reasons set forth in the previous Reply and Amendment dated December 19, 2006. However, the rejection is moot in light of the cancellation of claim 1 without prejudice.

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over the Lussier et al. reference in view of the Kneisl et al. reference. This rejection is respectfully traversed based on at least the reasons set forth in the previous Reply and Amendment dated December 19, 2006. However, the rejection is moot in light of the cancellation of claim 1 without prejudice.

In view of the foregoing remarks, the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner believes certain amendments are necessary to clarify the present claims or if the Examiner wishes to resolve other issues by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert A. Van Someren', written over a horizontal line.

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